

[Interview with Vito Cacciola #4]

Name: Merton R. Lovett

(original) Conn. 1938-9

Paper No. 4

INTERVIEWS

WITH

VITO CACCIOLA

His remarks as remembered

1

Page 1 [12/8/38?] INTERVIEWS WITH VITO CACCIOLA

by Merton R. Lovett

"De cobbler's business is bad, very bad. They are twenty, thirty shops; most Italian. They cutta de price; they steala de customer; they play with one another all de bad tricks.

"Why don't they coperate? They have too much heads like de pig. They have much selfishness. They hustle, they worry, they shake. They wanta my business and his business.

"One day they hava de big meeting. They cry de prices is too low. They say all must charge de same. They demand to use good leather and heels. I maka talk. I tell em they say mucha but will getta nowhere. I giva my plan. First de cobblers musta close all de shops but two or three. At these all will work. There will be only one head, one company.

Library of Congress

All the work will be divide equal. One man will buya all de supplies and sava much cash. One man will keepa de books and advertize in de papers. Instead of rent for twenty shops de cobblers will pay three. De workmen will worka eight hours the day. When de work is done they can resta and play. When de workman have no work he can visit the people and ask for the business.

2

"No; they no lika my plan. Bertucci say; 'I owna my shop, what I do, what I gonna do?' I answer we taka your shop to use and paya you rent.

"Vitali ask; 'What you do with my electric buffer. Who pay for that?' I reply the machines we need, we take the besta one each cobbler has.

"By jingo they calla me thief and fool. Now they wisha they do what I say. De dry cleanser he's fixa de shoes for twenty-nine cents. De cobbler he fret and he starve.

"De Italian is all for himself. De grocers is ten times too much. Everybody push himself up and pulla the other fellow down.

"I getta living don't I? I don't hava much, but I don't hustle myself too bad. I giva de children some lesson on de guitar. I have some peace and joy in de heart."